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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

25 August 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT

Assessment of Recent Action in the Que Son Valley

- I. Attached is an analysis of the recent actions in the Que Son Valley of South Vietnam's Military Region (MR) 1, which resulted in the loss of Fire Support Base Ross and Que Son district town. This assessment was prepared for our Vietnam Station Chief by a knowledgeable young analyst in the Station (a former U.S. Marine Corps officer with combat experience in MR 1). The GVN has, of course, moved to rectify the leadership and command problem flagged in this report by relieving General Hiep and giving command of the 2nd ARVN Division to Colonel Tran Van Nhut, who distinguished himself as the Binh Long province chief and (hence) An Loc garrison commander during the April-July siege of An Loc. Nhut is highly regarded by his American military colleagues as an able officer with great potential, an assessment his performance at An Loc would certainly seem to vindicate.
- 2. Because of its informal genesis and original purpose, the attached assessment was not coordinated with MACV or any other element of the U.S. Mission. Our Station Chief relayed it to us in an internal Agency cable because he thought its insights useful and informative. We plan no formal dissemination, but I thought you also might find this assessment interesting and hence am forwarding the attached personal copy for your eyes only.

	Richard Helms Director	s 25X1
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